Dick Smith Electronics Pty Ltd

COMPUTER

Vol 2 No 1 February 1986

THE MIGHTY DSE MULTITECH

IBM COMPATIBILITY AT HALF THE PRICE!

Dick Smith Electronics recently launched the newest entry into Australia's IBM compatible market — the DSE Multitech. The new machine represents an excellent price without sacrificing any of the necessary power and features.

Mike Bell, DSE's General Manager — Computers and Support, explains the Multitech's background: "We were looking for an IBM PC clone at a bargain basement price, because we knew that's what people needed. The Multitech has an 8088 processor and the MS DOS operating system, and incorporates an RS232C serial interface, parallel port, real time clock/calendar with battery back-up, sound circuitry, RGB and mono video outputs and a joystick port, all housed in a metal case! So it really fits the bill."

The keyboard is industry standard and solidly constructed. Featuring 84 keys, including 10 user programmable function keys and a separate numeric keypad, it provides maximum performance and flexibility.

The Multitech comes in three configurations and the best news for users is the price of all three. Starting from only $1395 the System 1 Multitech (X-8000) comes with 128K RAM and one 360K slimline disk drive, as well as all the interfaces listed above which would normally have to be purchased separately.

System 2 (X-8001) offers users 256K and two 360K slimline floppy drives, bundled with the fantastic "EASY" word processing package from Micro Pro, complete with a spelling checker. Included in the great value price of a low $1995 is a free six months **on-site** service agreement, so your problems of lugging a machine and all its peripherals in for service are over.

System 3 (X-8002) is the fully expanded 512K version with a 10 Megabyte hard disk and one 360K floppy. This system is bundled with the amazing "AURA" which performs all business computing needs: wordprocessing; spreadsheets; database; and information management, all from within the same program. That's true integration! Six months on-site service and free installation are included in the low price of $3995!

All three systems are also packaged with MS DOS version 2.11, and being MS DOS compatible they draw on a software base of huge proportions. And its flexibility means that when it's time to expand, the Multitech will make your growing pains only momentary.

The Multitech Corporation is one of the largest PC manufacturers outside the United States, so reliability and strong performance are virtually guaranteed. Multitech's reliability, when combined with DSE's years of experience in the Australian computer market has resulted in Australian businesses being offered the best value compatible on the market.

As Gareth Powell put it, in the Sydney Morning Herald: "What all this means is that full-scale computing power is now well within the reach of the smallest business."

(For further information, tick box 1 on the coupon on page 6.)

IN THIS ISSUE

The Mighty Multitech....1
Bondwell 14 Scores....2
New Products....2
Viatel Updated....3
Training for Business....4
Chess Challenge Checked....4
Win $100 of DSE diskettes....4
Bulletin Board News....4
Plot Halley's Comet....5
Soon to be released....5
New Faces....5
Hotline Jammers....5
Special Offer....5
User Groups....6
Handy Phone List....6
Reader Information Service....6
Adventurer's Corner....6

BONDWELL 14 SCORES AT RALLY SERIES

1985 saw Dick Smith Electronics sponsoring the NSW Rally Championship, known as Rally '85. The series consisted of seven tough events through the forests of some of NSW's regional centres: Newcastle, Port Macquarie, Coffs Harbour and Bega to name a few.

Part of DSE'S commitment was the supply of a Bondwell 14 and printer to assist race organisers with the scoring of each event. Normally it is a laborious manual process by which the scorers tally up the points awarded to each competitor, and with up to 90 cars in each race it was often not until the next day that the ultimate winner was announced.

With the use of the Bondwell, each car's time was entered and the software, written by one of the scorers, did all the calculating. Each event may consist of seven or eight stages, so the workload, usually borne by scorers, was greatly reduced. Competitors were able to check their progress at the meal break and could assess how they were placed, rather than guessing how they stood. This too was previously unavailable.

● The DSE car on one of the night stages at Port Macquarie.

It was the Bondwell's portability and robust construction that made it ideal for use by the Rally scorers. Rather than lugging around separate CPU, keyboard, monitor and drives plus a maze of interconnecting cables, their job was made much easier with all these units housed in the one compact box.

(For more information on the Bondwell 14, tick box 2 on page 6.)

NEW PRODUCTS:

DATAPRODUCTS PRINTERS

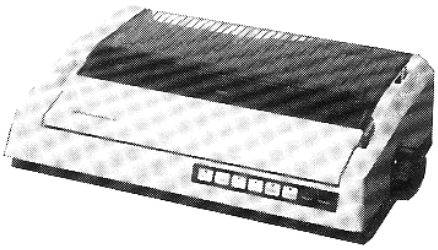
The Dataproducts printers are the top of the dot matrix range. They offer outstanding performance and conform to the industry printer standards. Both printers provide the best of both worlds, a high speed mode that can print your quick internal reports or drafts, and a Near Letter Quality mode to print out your important external documents.

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

Both the Dataproducts printers will work with any computer capable of supporting a standard Centronics type parallel interface.

FEATURES

1. Standard Centronics interface compatibility.
2. Tractor and friction feed supplied as standard.
3. Can emulate the IBM graphics printer (i.e. graphics printouts from virtually all software that has this feature, including GRAPHICS. COM).
4. Supports Industry standard 256 expanded ASCII character set (in IBM emulation mode).
5. 6 different print pitches 5, 10, 6, 12, 8.5, & 17 characters per inch.
6. 3 different print qualities and print speed:
   - Draft (180 characters per second).



   - Type Quality (90 cps)
   - Letter Quality (30 cps)
7. Variable line feed spacing.
8. Supports underlining, boldfacing, super and scripting characters.
9. All printer features can be software selected.
10. No hidden DIP switches! The default modes are set up by programming the printer using the front panel.

(For more information tick box 3 on page 6.)

SCISYS CHESS COMPUTER

DSE now has in stock three SciSys chess computers, starting at only $99.95 (Y-7060). Each of these machines enables the user to improve their game against various levels of skill, and means that there's never a shortage of opponents, no matter when you want to play! Available now at all DSE stores.

(For more information tick box 4 on page 6.)

CAN'T TYPE?

Some computer users still find it hard to come to grips with the skill of typing. DSE has solved that problem with the "Type Right" (Y-7100), a computer keyboard with an LCD screen that teaches you to touch-type quickly and efficiently.

For only $69.95, Type Right will save the computer user hours of time, otherwise lost on slow typing. (Stocks available mid-February)

(For more information, tick box 5 on page 6.)

NEW DAISYWHEEL PRINTER

The Data Mate DWP-2500 letter quality printer (X-3287) is ideal for home and business alike. For only $549 it offers excellent letter quality printing at 20 cps, using the industry standard Diablo/Qume ribbons and daisywheels.

It comes complete with a Centronics parallel interface and has a 2K buffer memory for flexibility of use. Now available from DSE.

(For more information, tick box 6 on page 6.)

BLUE BOX

The Blue Box 815 was designed to serve as a mini RS232 interface test set and status activity monitor. It also acts as a versatile configuration device permitting the fast establishment of customised RS232 connections. The Blue Box is available for $199 with a 12 month warranty.

(For more information, tick box 7 on page 6.)

VIATEL UPDATED

WHAT DOES IT OFFER

Viatel allows a user to easily call to their screen a vast, and very user-friendly source of information and services, which have been provided by over 140 organisations known as 'service providers'. Although the range of services is rapidly expanding, existing services fall into four broad categories:

- **Information** — Updated information about a wide range of subjects is available.
- **Communications** — Messages can be sent to any user or service provider on the Viatel system. Short messages can also be sent to any telex service in Australia.
- **Interactive Services** — By combining the messaging and information services, complete interactive services are offered. For example, goods can be ordered, bookings requested, or further information requested. Some services allow users to gain direct access to the service provider's own computer (Viatel). With home banking, for example, a bank connects its own computer into the Viatel system to all customers to transfer funds, pay bills, obtain statements and access a variety of other financial services.
- **Telesoftware** — Microcomputer users can subscribe to services that will allow them to select a computer program from Viatel and automatically copy it directly into the memory of their own computer. This is called 'downloading' the program from Viatel. The program is then stored on disk for later use. A wide variety of entertainment and business programs are available to suit a range of computers.

WHAT IS REQUIRED TO ACCESS VIATEL?

As well as a VIATEL subscription and access to an ordinary telephone line, a microcomputer must be suitably equipped to communicate with VIATEL. (This will usually allow the user to take advantage of other data communications applications as well as Viatel.)

(a) **Suitable Modem**

In the same way as a telephone converts your voice into a form that can be relayed through the telephone network, a MODEM converts computer signals into a form that can be relayed through the telephone network. The modem also converts the signal received from the telephone line back into a form suitable for the computer.

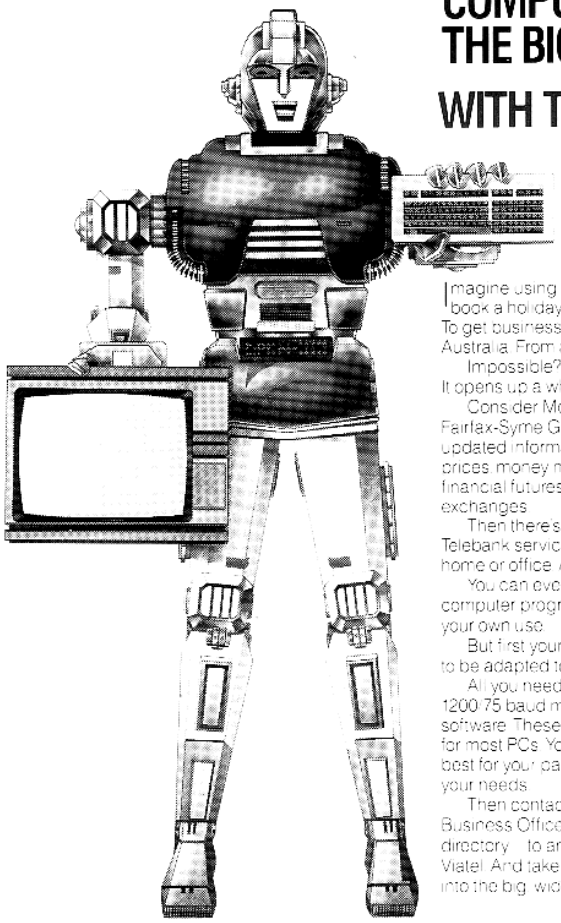
A modem suitable for use with VIATEL must be able to receive data at 1200 bits per second and transmit at 75 bits per second at the same time. This is referred to as a 1200/75 modem. Many modems currently used with microcomputers operate at a data rate of 300 bits per second for both transmitting and receiving simultaneously (called 300/300 bps or 300 bps 'full duplex').

(b) **Suitable Software**

Once a computer is able to receive data from VIATEL over the telephone lines by using a modem, the computer must have a set of instructions in its memory that tells it what to do with the coded data it is receiving. These instructions must be purchased for the individual computer, as computers vary in what they can do, and how they do it. They may be in the form of an"add on" to the computer memory to be plugged into the computer, or may be stored on disk or cassette so that they can be fed into the computer's existing memory.

TAKE YOUR PERSONAL COMPUTER OUT INTO THE BIG WIDE WORLD.

WITH TELECOM VIATEL.



Imagine using your personal computer to book a holiday. To shop. To do your banking. To get business information from all round Australia. From all round the world.

Impossible? Not with Telecom Viatel. It opens up a whole new world for PC owners.

Consider Money Watch from the Fairfax-Syme Group. It provides constantly updated information on stocks and share prices, money markets, commodity and financial futures. From local and international exchanges.

Then there's the Commonwealth Bank Telebank service. It lets you bank from your home or office. At the touch of a button.

You can even use Viatel to download new computer programs onto disk or cassette for your own use.

But first your personal computer will have to be adapted to emulate a Viatel terminal.

All you need is a Telecom approved 1200/75 baud modem and the appropriate software. These are now readily available for most PCs. Your dealer will know what is best for your particular PC. Talk to him about your needs.

Then contact your local Telecom Business Office (listed in your telephone directory) to arrange connection to Telecom Viatel. And take your personal computer out into the big wide world.

Telecom VIATEL

AUSTRALIA'S NATIONAL VIDEOTEX SERVICE

Telecom Australia
Better for Business

VIATEL CHARGES

MONTHLY SUBSCRIPTION FEE

Business $12.50
Non-Business $2.50

CHARGE TO ACCESS DATABASE

each access: 16 cents
(charged to Viatel bill)

CONNECTION TIME CHARGE

Monday to Friday
8am to 6pm 8 cents per minute
All other times: 5 cents per minute

OTHER CHARGES

Messages sent to other Viatel users (per frame): 5 cents

Message sent to a telex service (within Australia only, per frame): $1.75

Note: A "frame" is one full screen of information.

DSE NOW PROVIDES COMPUTER TRAINING FOR BUSINESS

Computer Sales and
Support Department

A microcomputer system is a sophisticated business tool that is new to many business people and without adequate training and knowledge, users rarely use more than half of the capacity of their machines. It is important that users should be given the opportunity to learn the skills that enable them to utilise the full capabilities of their computer.

Dick Smith Electronics, in conjunction with Confratel Computer Services now offers the TOTAL SOLUTION to first time users of business computers.

Training is the key to unlocking the potential of a business computer. Without training, the business person has made a major investment in a computer system that will never be cost effective. Confratel/DSE are determined that purchasers of DSE business computers will be provided with the total solution: a well chosen computer system and, most importantly, the skills to make that computer do the job(s) required of it.

Modern software is designed to be as 'friendly' as possible, however, learning new software can be a frustrating and laborious experience. Manuals are provided with every computer, but even if a user has that knowledge, manuals are very time-consuming and tedious to learn from. Rarely-used features of the software are given as much prominence as the bread and butter features. How does a learner differentiate between the essential capabilities of the software, and the frills?

CONFRATEL has been working for the last four years in customer support and training, with major education facilities in Collins Street, Melbourne and the MLC Centre in Sydney. With their extensive experience and resources, they are able to offer excellent training on the business packages available through DSE.

Training is available in a classroom setting, or on-site for those businesses who require education tailored especially to their needs. Education is provided for the majority of popular business packages and DSE customers have made great use of the training available for:

OPEN ACCESS
ENABLE
ACCESS FOUR
PERFECT WRITER & PERFECT FILER

Classroom training is costed at $195 per day and on-site training at $330 per day.

Information about the training courses is available from your nearest DSE store, or tick box 8 on page 6.

1st AUSTRALASIAN CHESS CHALLENGE

On Saturday December 14, Dick Smith Electronics in conjunction with SciSys Chess Computers, staged the 1st Australasian Chess Challenge.

Australia's first chess grand master, Ian Rogers, played 25 opponents simultaneously in the first exhibition tournament of its kind. Three of his opponents were SciSys Chess Computers, all of which were beaten by Rogers but not without putting up a long fight.

The NZ Junior Champion, Anthony Kerr, was also competing from the Wellington DSE store in New Zealand via a phone-linked DSE Multitech computer. Anthony was one of the four people to draw, while his Australian counterpart, Tim Riley, was the only competitor to beat Rogers.

The DSE Multitech, as pictured, played a vital role in allowing these two great chess champions to compete. It overcame the 2000km gap that hinders matches of this type, and is just another example of modern technology at work.

SPOT THE BUG TO WIN DSE DISKETTES WORTH OVER $100!

All you have to do is spot the bug in the short program below, and your name goes into the draw for SSDD DSE Diskettes worth over $100! It's that easy, so put your thinking cap on and get those entries in. Entries must be received by February 27, 1986, and should be addressed to:

The Editor, Compūt,
P.O. Box 321,
North Ryde 2113.

SPOT THE BUG

```
10  CLS
20  FOR A=1 to 20
30  PRINT" YOU ARE ";A;" YEARS
    OLD"
40  NEXT A
50  FOR B=1 to 20
60  PRINT
70  PRINT"SEE IF YOU CAN FIND
    THE BUG"
80  GOSUB 200
90  GOTO 210
200 PRINT"TEST":RETURN
210 PRINT
220 INPUT" PLEASE ENTER YOUR
    NAME";A$
230 IF A$="" THEN 220
240 PRINT A$;" IS A GOOD NAME."
250 END
```

BULLETIN BOARD NEWS

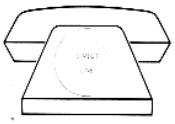
The DSE Remote Bulletin Board Service (RBBS) is on-line 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and provides a forum for hackers and hobbyists to swap notes, download public domain software, and generally communicate with each other.

Very little file maintenance is required from DSE's point-of-view, with most of the updating of information being done by users, making it really a bulletin board for the people, from the people.

Many users are taking advantage of the RBBS ordering system which allows you to place orders for any product at any time! DSX simply charges your credit card and the goods are despatched later the same day.

Over 8000 users have logged onto the system so far, which was upgraded from a 10Mb to 20Mb hard disk to accommodate all the files. If you have a modem that runs at 300 baud, you can log on by calling (02) 887-2276, but there may be a wait due to the system's popularity. This will be remedied soon with a change to a multi-user system in the near future.

HOTLINE JAMMERS



This is a list of questions often asked by users of the DSE Computer Hotline. Perhaps you were wondering what the answers to these questions were too!

1. Q: When will the CAT RAM expansion module be available?
   A: The 128k memory expansion cartridge (X-7590) is now available from DSE stores for $249, and plugs directly into the CAT.
2. Q: Does PRODOS or any program written under PRODOS run on the CAT?
   A: No
3. Q: Can the Challenger be expanded to 640k RAM?
   A: The most recent Challengers will have been modified as per Technical Bulletins 95 (Improvement of operation with RAM cards) and 96 (Operation of Version 4 BIOS ROMs). These technical bulletins are available from any DSE store.
   Please note : the Challenger A unit must have 256k RAM fitted before it can be expanded to a larger memory. The "Qubic 6 Plus" or the "Orchard Blossom" multifunction boards work perfectly with the modified Challenger. If you're unsure as to whether or not the mod has been carried out, please verify it with Tech. Bulletins 95 & 96.
4. Q: Will the VZ300/200 run System 80 software?
   A: The VZ300/200 computers will not run System 80 disks or cassette programs. However, the BASIC language syntax is quite similar, so some of the programs published in System 80/TRS80 books may be modified for use with the VZ. (The program must not exceed the VZ's memory capacity).
5. Q: Can the Toshiba T1100 connect to an external colour monitor?
   A: Yes the T1100 has both R.G.B. colour and composite video output ports, which can be used simultaneously.
6. Q: What baud rate is the DSE Bulletin Board running at?
   A: DSE's RBBS currently runs at 300 baud, but will be modified in the next 6-8 weeks to accept more users simultaneously, and at different baud rates.

NEW FACES

DSE's Computer Support Department is growing rapidly. Below is a brief introduction to some of the new people now helping DSE to help you.

Evan Pearce was previously a Grade 2 Computer Specialist located at our Parramatta store and is now responsible for Viatel updates and the production of technical bulletins as well as supporting stores and assisting customers using the Hotline.

Assisting Evan with the Hotline and store support is Jamie Perry, previously at the Albury DSE store. Jamie is the resident VZ and Cat expert and is kept very busy with his share of the 70 calls answered on the Hotline each day.

Mark Grimmond has recently moved into the senior purchasing position of Computer Products Controller. Mark draws on 3 years of experience with computers at DSE in his vital role of sourcing, evaluating and marketing DSE's full range of hardware, software and accessories.

Mike Bell is the General Manager of Computers and Support and has been with DSE since September '85. He is responsible for the overall running of the purchasing, training and support areas and draws on many years experience in computers.

SOON TO BE RELEASED...

- In February, DSE will be releasing the complete accounting solution. It will include a 20Mb Olivetti M24, printer and Olibiz accounting software, at a price to be seen!
- In the not too distant future a 1200/75/300 modem, with auto answer will be available, tipped to be under $350.
- And even closer is a smart-modem with auto answer and auto dial (Hayes compatible) which will be under the $600 mark!

SPECIAL OFFER

10% OFF DSE DISKETTES

Until the end of March, Dick Smith Xpress is offering 10% off the normal prices of a box of DSE quality diskettes!

SSDD Normally $27.50	Now only $24.75
DSDD Normally $29.50	Now only $26.55

All you have to do is fill in the coupon below and send it, with your cheque to:
DSX, P O Box 321, North Ryde, 2113.

DSX ONLY!

10% OFF (Offer valid to 28.3.86)

This coupon qualifies me for 10% off the normal price of DSE Quality Diskettes.

My computer is
- Apple Compatible ☐
- IBM Compatible ☐
- VZ/Commodore ☐

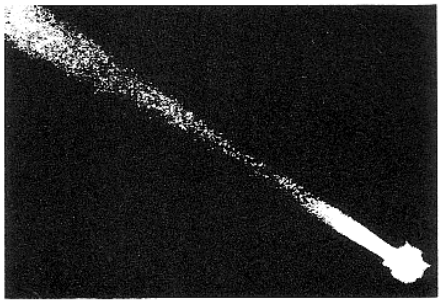
My computer was bought at DSE
Yes ☐ No ☐

Name .....

Address .....

.....P/Code:.....

PLOT HALLEY'S COMET!



Halley's Comet is currently appearing for the first time in 76 years with the best visibility yet to come in March/April 86. DSE has available a 56 page book detailing all the facts and figures about the comet.

In the back of the book are two computer programs which will run on the CAT Computer, and will assist you with plotting the Comet's course in the sky.

The book "Halley's Comet Over Australia" (B-4800) is available at all DSE stores. It can also be purchased as a part of the Halley's Comet Watcher's Kit (Y-1111), along with a T-shirt, bumper sticker, proof-of-contact certificate and a $10 gift voucher for use with any purchase of a telescope or pair of binoculars. At only $19.95 it represents great value, and will undoubtedly become a collector's item.

(For more information, tick box 9 on page 6)

USER GROUPS

Challenger Users — NT
Contact:Mr. Tom Koltai
Phone: (089) 85 5555

Challenger Users — NSW
Meetings 2nd Tuesday of each month. Geoffrey Towns
(02) 929 4618 (bh)

Various Groups
Cat Users — 1st Saturday each month
System 80 Users — 2nd Saturday each month.
Special Interest and learning groups — 3rd Saturday each month.
Challenger/Olivetti/T1100/Multitech Users —4th Saturday each month.
Contact: Mick Rowney
Phone: 666 4716

VZ200/300USERS — QLD
T. D'Alton Ph: (07) 371 3707

Bondwell Users — Vic
Bondwell Users of Australia Inc.
Contact: Neville Howard
Phone: (03) 363 6011 (AH)
P.O. Box 599,
Werribee 3030

Bondwell Users — NSW
Contact:Ray Richards
Phone: 683 3940(H) 689 5278(W)

Cat User — NSW
$2 every meeting
Contacts: Philip Jang 387 4908(W)
Peter Cook 634 6336(H)
Frank Kenny 599 7176(H)

Super 80 Users — NSW
Contact: Dr P. Thursby
15 Bray Court
North Rocks 2157
Annual subscription of $15 for monthly newsletter.

SYDTRUG (System 80)
Meets 2nd, 3rd and 4th Saturday each month. For more information: PO Box 297, Padstow 2211. $20p.a. fee, $10 joining fee.

Canberra Micro-80 Users
Contact: Harry Cooper, 113 Owen Dixon Drive, Evatt 2617. Phone: (062) 58 3700

PC Users — ACT
Contact: PO Box E188, Parkes ACT 2600

System 80 Users — NSW
Contact: Jim Fisher, 37 Fairburn Ave, West Pennant Hills 2120

Wizzard Users — NSW
Contact: John Mifsod, 150 Bouganville Rd, Blackett 2770
(02) 628 0801

IBM-PC Compatible Users — Victoria
Contact: The Secretary, C/O Powell Kerr Foster, 14th Floor, 500 Bourke St, Melbourne 3000

VZ200/300 Users — Victoria
Contact: Luigi Chiodo, 24 Don St, Reservoir 3073 (03) 460 3770

Wizzard Users — Victoria
Contact: Barry Klein, 24 Russell St, Bulleen 3105 (03) 850 7275

System 80 Users — QLD
Contact: Secretary, 16 Laver St, Macgregor 4109 (07) 343 5771

VZ200/300 Users — QLD
Contact: Michael Novakovic, 24 Albert St, Goonda 4300
(07) 288 3045

System 80 Users — SA
Contact: Helen Ross, 36 Sturt St, Adelaide 5000

SA Microprocessor Group
Contact: The Secretary, PO Box 113, Plympton 5038 (08) 278 7288

CP/M Users — Qld
Contact: The Secretary, PO Box 1025, Milton 4064

VZ200/300 Users — NT
Contact: 7 Abbott Cres, Malak 5793
(08) 27 2830

System 80 Users — WA
Contact: C. Powell, (09) 295 1449

Wizzard Users — WA
Contact: John Reid, 13 Wenlock Rd, Wattleup 6166 (09) 410 2359

VZ200/300 Users — NSW
Anyone interested in forming an official club for the VZ in NSW, please contact Charles Fairlie on 888 3200 (bh)

YOUR HANDY PHONE LIST

Dick Smith Electronics	(02) 888 3200
DSE Bulletin Board	(02) 887 2276
Computer Hotline	(02) 888 2002
DSX Toll Free Orderline	(008) 22 6610
DSX Bankcard Orderline	(02) 888 2105

DICK SMITH ELECTRONICS PTY LTD

ADVENTURERS' CORNER

Questions requiring answers:

1. In the game "Transylvania", how do you give the statue the potion?
2. In Hitchhikers Guide to the Galaxy, what do you do once you've been transported onto the Vogon constructor ship?
3. What's the name of the old gnome who gives the key in King's Quest? (This is unanswered from last issue.)

Answers for last issue:

1. To pick up the platinum bar in Zork the solution has something to do with the acoustics of the room. What happens when you say something? something? something? Type ECHO.
2. To get the babel fish out of the dispenser put a towel over the metal hook above the hole, put Ford's bag over the grating and put the junk mail from the porch at home on top of the bag. Then press the button marked babel fish, it flies out, slides across the floor, and hits the top of the bag. the junk mail flies into the air and is collected by the air cleaning robot, and the babel fish flies into your ear. Simple isn't it!

NEW READER INFORMATION SERVICE

As a means of providing a better service for our readers, a new reader information service has been created. If you require any further information on any of the products seen on these pages, simply tick the appropriate box in the coupon below, and mail it to:

The Editor — Compūt
PO Box 321
North Ryde 2113

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

Please send me more information as indicated.

Name .....

Address .....

.....

P/Code .....